

Message Text

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SUBJ: PORTUGUESE COMMENT ON PAIGC ALLEGATIONS CONCERNING
CAPE VERDE ISLANDS

REF: USUN 3722

IN LETTER DATED OCTOBER 7 (CIRCULATED AS UN DOCUMENT),
PORTUGUESE PERMREP INFORMS SYG THAT GOP REMAINS COMMITTED
TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND INDEPENDENCE AND THAT, SHOULD
PORTUGUESE GOOD FAITH IN RELATIONS TO CAPE VERDE ISLANDS
BE QUESTIONED AT UN OR BY INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC OPINION,
PORTUGAL WILL REQUEST DESPATCH OF UN OBSERVERS TO TERRI-
TORY. FULL TEXT FOLLOWS:

QUOTE WITH REFERENCE TO THE QUESTION RELATING TO THE CAPE
VERDE TERRITORIES, DESCRIBED IN A TELEGRAM ADDRESSED
TO YOUR EXCELLENCY BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE
PARTIDO AFRICANO DA INDEPENDENCIA DA GUINE A CABO VERDE
(PAIGC), /1) I HAVE THE HONOUR TO TRANSMIT THE FOLLOWING
CLARIFICATIONS ON BEHALF OF THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT:
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(1) THE INCIDENTS ON SAO VICENTE ISLAND RESULTED FROM RANDOM DISTURBANCES OF PUBLIC ORDER, WITHOUT ANY POLITICAL CONNOTATIONS, AND INVOLVED SOME ELEMENTS OF THE PORTUGUESE ARMED FORCES WHILE ON LEAVE. THESE EVENTS WERE NOT OF ANY SPECIAL GRAVITY. THE SITUATION WAS IMMEDIATELY NORMALIZED AND THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT IS PROCEEDING WITH A THOROUGH INQUIRY.

(2) TWO COMPANIES OF THE ARMED FORCES (300 MEN) WERE SENT TO CAPE VERDE, ONE OF THEM TO SUBSTITUTE FOR ANOTHER, WHICH WAS LEAVING THE ISLAND. THIS INDICATES THAT THERE ARE NO GROUNDS TO SUPPORT SUSPICIONS OF ANY FURTHER INTENTIONS ON THE PART OF THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT.

(3) THE DETERMINING FACTOR IN THE DISPATCH OF THESE FORCES WAS TO SECURE THE MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC ORDER, WHICH WAS DISTURBED BY INCIDENTS OF THE TYPE WHICH TOOK PLACE ON SAO VICENTE.

(4) THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT HAS ALREADY DEFINED ITS POLICY WITH RESPECT TO CAPE VERDE. IT IS THAT OF ENSURING THAT, IN PEACE, LIBERTY AND EQUALITY OF CONDITIONS, ALL THE POLITICAL PARTIES WHICH HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED ELECT THEIR DEPUTIES TO A CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY WHICH WILL THUS NECESSARILY REPRESENT THE MAJORITY OF THE CAPE VERDEAN POPULATION. THAT ASSEMBLY SHALL DRAFT A FUTURE CONSTITUTION FOR THE TERRITORY WHICH THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT WILL RESPECT, WHATEVER ITS PROVISIONS.

(5) THIS CONSTITUTION WILL PROVIDE FOR THE CREATION OF SOVEREIGN ORGANS TO WHICH THE POWERS NOW HELD AND EXERCISED BY THE PORTUGUESE AUTHORITIES SHALL BE TRANSFERRED.

(6) THE PORTUGUESE AUTHORITIES HAVE DONE AND SHALL DO NOTHING TO CONTRADICT THE FAITHFUL AND SCRUPULOUS EXECUTION OF THIS PLAN.

(7) THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT HOLDS ITSELF FAITHFUL TO THE PRINCIPLE OF SELF-DETERMINATION AND INDEPENDENCE AND THE AUTHORITIES WHO ARE YET TO LEGITIMATELY RECEIVE POWER WILL BE CHOSEN THROUGH PRIOR CONSULTATION WITH THE PEOPLE,
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ON THE BASIS OF ONE MAN ONE VOTE.

(8) IF THE CONSTITUTION WHICH IS TO BE VOTED UPON SHOULD SUPPORT OR SAFEGUARD ANY JURIDICAL OR SOCIAL TIE WITH PORTUGAL, THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT WOULD ACCEPT SUCH FACT WITH SATISFACTION AND HONOUR THE RESPONSIBILITIES WHICH FALL TO IT. HOWEVER, IT WOULD NOT ALLOW THIS TO TAKE PLACE IN A MANNER PREJUDICING THE PRINCIPLE OF LIBERTY AND EQUALITY

BETWEEN POLITICAL PARTIES.

(9) THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT DESIRES TO MAINTAIN THE BEST AND MOST CO-OPERATIVE RELATIONS WITH THE REPUBLIC OF GUINEA-BISSAU AND PAIGC, A FACT WHICH HAS BEEN EVIDENTLY PROVEN. THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT THUS REAFFIRMS THAT IT WILL GUARANTEE THE FULL FREEDOM OF ALL POLITICAL PARTIES, INCLUDING PAIGC, IN THE ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN FOR THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY.

(10) THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT WILL ALWAYS BE OPEN TO THE MOST FRANK EXCHANGE OF IMPRESSIONS WITH PAIGC ON ALL LEVELS, SO AS TO AVOID ANY MISUNDERSTANDING.

(11) IF THE GOOD FAITH AND JUST INTENTIONS OF THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT IN RELATION TO CAPE VERDE ARE QUESTIONED AT THE UNITED NATIONS OR BY INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC OPINION, PORTUGAL WILL REQUEST THE DISPATCHING OF UNITED NATIONS OBSERVERS TO BEAR WITNESS TO THE RECTITUDE OF ITS CONDUCT.

I WISH TO REQUEST THAT THIS LETTER BE CIRCULATED AS A DOCUMENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. (SIGNED) JOSE VEIGA SIMAO
/1/ SEE A/9788 UNQUOTE
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